Billion Girl

BY SAKAI MIWA

VOLUME 05

登場人物介紹與前情提要

大葉鹿子

女主角。和菓子老店「大葉」的么女。原本應該只是個平凡高中生的她，因為父親的10億元債務而成了大我的妻子。

北条大我

鎌倉名門貴族・北条家第17代傳人，非常受歡迎的官能小說家・內心曾受過相當大的創傷。

伊集院鴨子

禮王的妹妹，英子的女兒。對少年時代的大我而言，她就像天使般的存在。小時候因為溺斃在池塘裡，結束了她短暫的一生。

雨宮鳩彥
鹿子的同學。喜歡說著女生用語的神秘美少男。自從了解鹿子的遭遇後，便千方百計想要救她脫離苦海。
忍成數馬
鹿子的同學。知道了鹿子的處境後，不斷地與鳩彥一起為她奔走！其實喜歡著鹿子。
王生龍也
高中一年生。非常喜歡「大葉」的味道，曾經給鹿子品嚐過手製的和菓子。為了探查情況，現在正在「大葉」修業中。愛稱．冬瓜太。
丹後夜理人
曾經幫助從禮王家逃出來的鹿子。與大我是朋友，好像還是鳩彥的繼父！
伊集院英子
禮王的母親。因為親生的雙胞胎妹妹竟是自己丈夫的情婦，而變得精神異常，並對少年時代的大我進行性侵害。失去了鴿子後，病情更加惡化。
伊集院禮王
大我的同父異母兄弟。打理著眾多伊集院家產業的有為青年。因為妹妹的猝死，對大我更是打從心底地憎恨。

CHARACTER INTRODUCTION AND PREVIOUS STORIES 2

BILLION GIRL ⑤ 5

MWA'S BIG GIVEAWAY 171

A Willful Muse
TRANSLATOR: GOKURI
PROOFREADER: LYNZ
CLEANER: MOLENIR
TYPSETTER: PERCH
RAWS: ADAD

TOKIKO?
MR. HOUJOU?

MR. HOUJOU, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
MM...
...WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?
AFTER YOU SAW YOUR SISTER'S KIMONO, YOU SUDDENLY...
MY LITTLE SISTER..
MR. HOUJOU, YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD!

STOP! DON'T TOUCH ME!
TAIGA
STOP!
MR. HOUJOU?

LET GO OF ME!

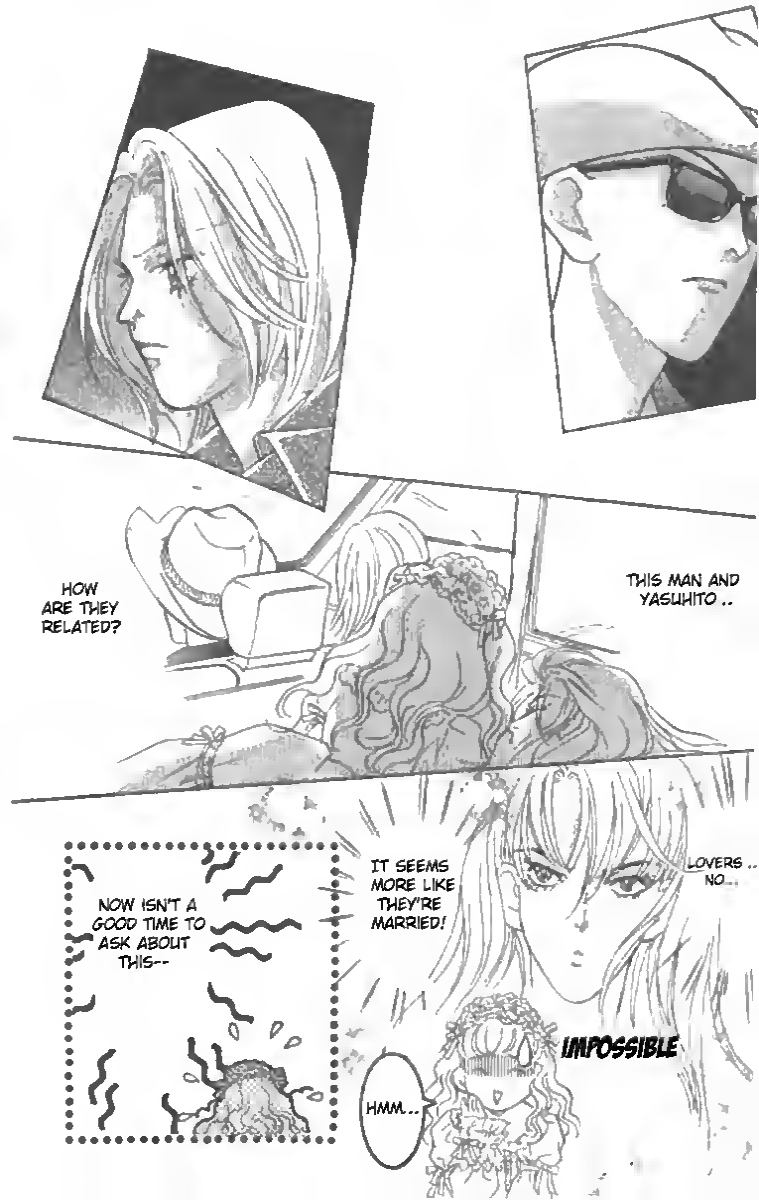
MR. HOUJOU!
HUH?
KANOKO--
YASU-HITO--!
MR. HOUJOU.. HE SUDDENLY FAINTED!
TAIGA ...?

I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL...
LET ME TAKE A LOOK!
TAIGA, CAN YOU HEAR ME? TAIGA!
NO, TAKING HIM HOME IS BETTER THAN TAKING HIM TO THE HOSPITAL.
THIS KIND OF THING HAS HAPPENED BEFORE.
TN: WORDS BEHIND H.KEEPER = SUPER HOUSEKEEPER OSTWIT
SUPER
HIS HOUSEKEEPER SHOULD BE PRETTY USED TO IT...
WHEN HE WAKES UP, HE'LL START VOMITING.
IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE?

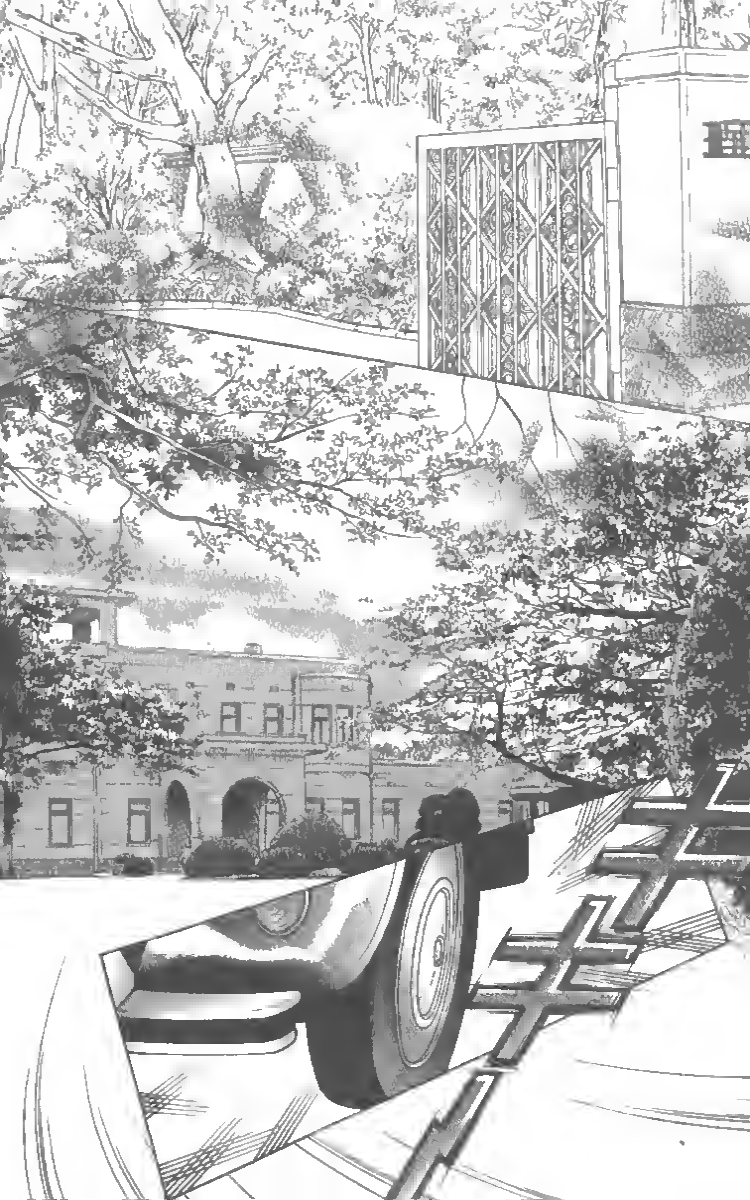
I DON'T WANT TO.
I'LL TAKE HIM HOME IN MY CAR.
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH TAIGA ANYMORE!
YASUHITO!
NO! I SAID THAT I DON'T WANT TO!
NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO TALK ABOUT THAT!
YASUHITO, HELP ME OUT!

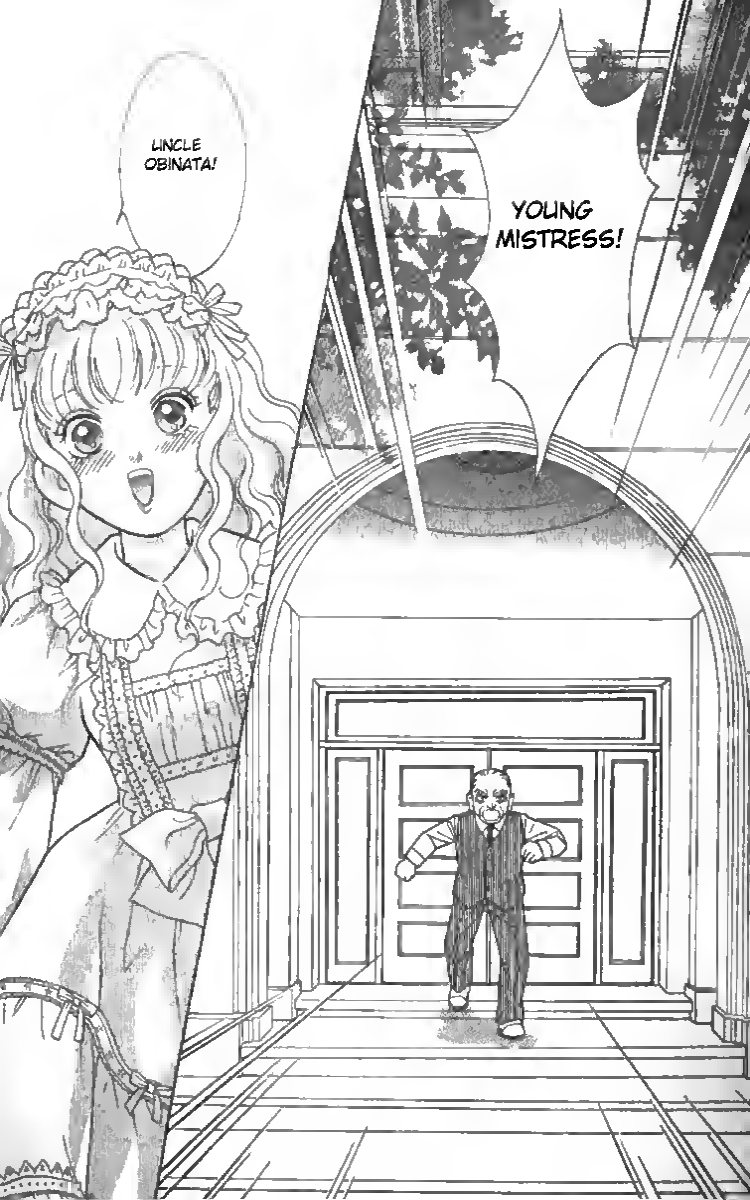
IT'S A REALLY FUNNY-LOOKING CAR..
WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO SHOVE HIM IN THERE!
IT WON'T WORK! HOW CAN WE FIT SUCH A BIG MAN INTO SUCH A TINY CAR?

YASUHITO, YOU'RE REALLY HEARTLESS.
HUH?
I'M... LEAVING FIRST!
HOW CAN YOU LEAVE HIM WHEN HE'S LIKE THIS?
FINE!
I NEED A MAN'S STRENGTH TO HELP ME.

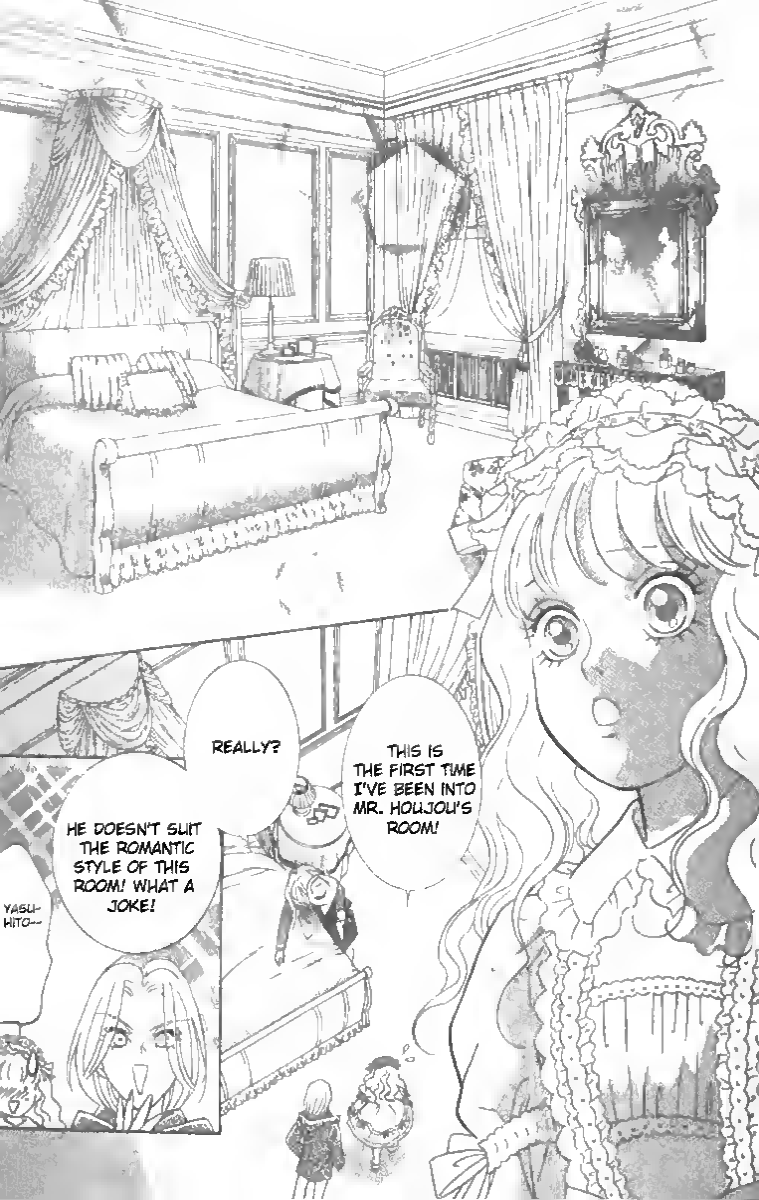

HOW ARE THEY RELATED?
THIS MAN AND YASUHITO ..
LOVERS .. NO..
IT SEEMS MORE LIKE THEY'RE MARRIED!
IMPOSSIBLE
HMM...
NOW ISN'T A GOOD TIME TO ASK ABOUT THIS--

AND MR. HOUJOU SUDDENLY FAINTED...
YASUHITO ISN'T SPEAKING IN A GIRLY TONE LIKE HE USUALLY DOES. IT FEELS KIND OF SCARY!
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS MAN IS REALLY LIKE...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?




UNCLE OBINATA!
YOUNG MISTRESS!

QUICK, HELP US CARRY HIM TO HIS ROOM
YOUNG MASTER?
HUH?
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MR. HOUJOU!
HEY! DON'T CALL ME THAT!
YOU... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KEEPS TAKING YOUNG MASTER OUT TO EAT, DRINK, AND PLAY AROUND. YOU'RE THAT 'BALD SQUID,' AREN'T YOU?
HOW CAN I LET THIS GAY GUY STEP INTO THE ARISTOCRATIC HOUJOU FAMILY'S HOUSE?
YOU STOP RIGHT THERE!
HUGE SCANDAL
WAIT!
TAKE HIM INTO HIS ROOM AND LET HIM REST.

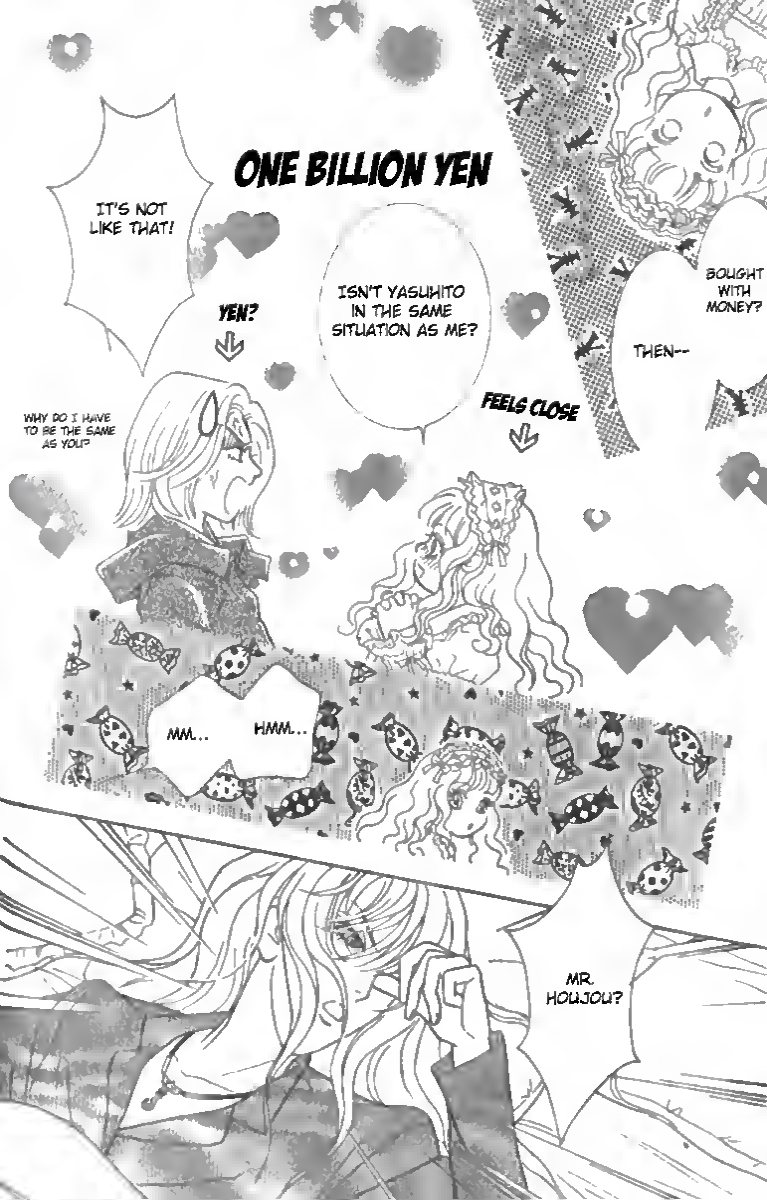

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN INTO MR. HOUJOU'S ROOM!
REALLY?
HE DOESN'T SUIT THE ROMANTIC STYLE OF THIS ROOM! WHAT A JOKE!
YASU-HITO--

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HIS CLOTHES?
WE SHOULD TAKE THEM OFF, SHOULDN'T WE?
HEY! DON'T DO ANYTHING TO THE YOUNG MASTER, YOU GAY MAN!
YOU'RE THINKING TOO MUCH.
TAIGA IS JUST A GOOD FRIEND. HE'S NOT MY TYPE!
NOT YOUR TYPE?

HE'S MYSTERIOUS AND BEAUTIFUL AND HANDSOME!
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?! THE YOUNG MASTER IS...
SO EAGER?
WAHH!
ホホホ
40 YEARS OF HOUSEKEEPING EXPERIENCE!
WILL ALWAYS BE AT YOUR DISPOSAL!
IT'LL BE A HIT!
LIKE THIS...
IF YOU KEEP TALKING NONSENSE,
I'LL PUT UP POSTERS WITH YOUR PHOTOS ON THEM IN ALL THE GAY BARS!

UNCLE OBINATA HAD SUCH A HUGE REACTION...
OH YEAH, I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET.
MY NAME IS YOSHITO TANGO. I'M A NOVELIST.
IS THIS MAN REALLY GAY?
BUT I ONLY RELEASED ONE BOOK! I'M TAKING A BREAK RIGHT NOW.
THE TWO OF USED TO HANG OUT ALL DAY AND NIGHT!
TAIGA AND I WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER.

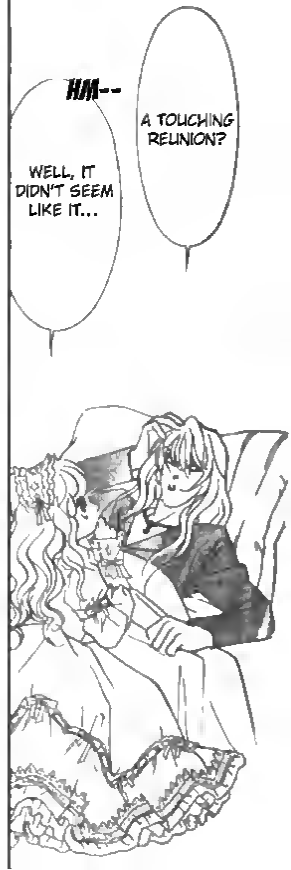
MAY I ASK...
HOW MR. YOSHITO AND YASUHITO ARE RELATED?
YOU WERE BOUGHT BY ME WITH MONEY--
ABOUT THAT...
HUH?
HOW ARE WE RELATED? TELL HER HONESTLY, YASUHITO!


ONE BILLION YEN
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
YEN?
ISN'T YASUHITO IN THE SAME SITUATION AS ME?
FEELS CLOSE
BOUGHT WITH MONEY?
THEN--
WHY DO I HAVE TO BE THE SAME AS YOU?
MM...
HMM...
MR. HOUJOU?

KANOKO.
ARE YOU AWAKE? HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
YOSH-ITO..
I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T MAKE IT THIS TIME.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER, MR. HOUJOU? YOU PAINTED!
WHERE AM I?
WHEN DID I GET HOME...
OH... I THINK I REMEMBER NOW...

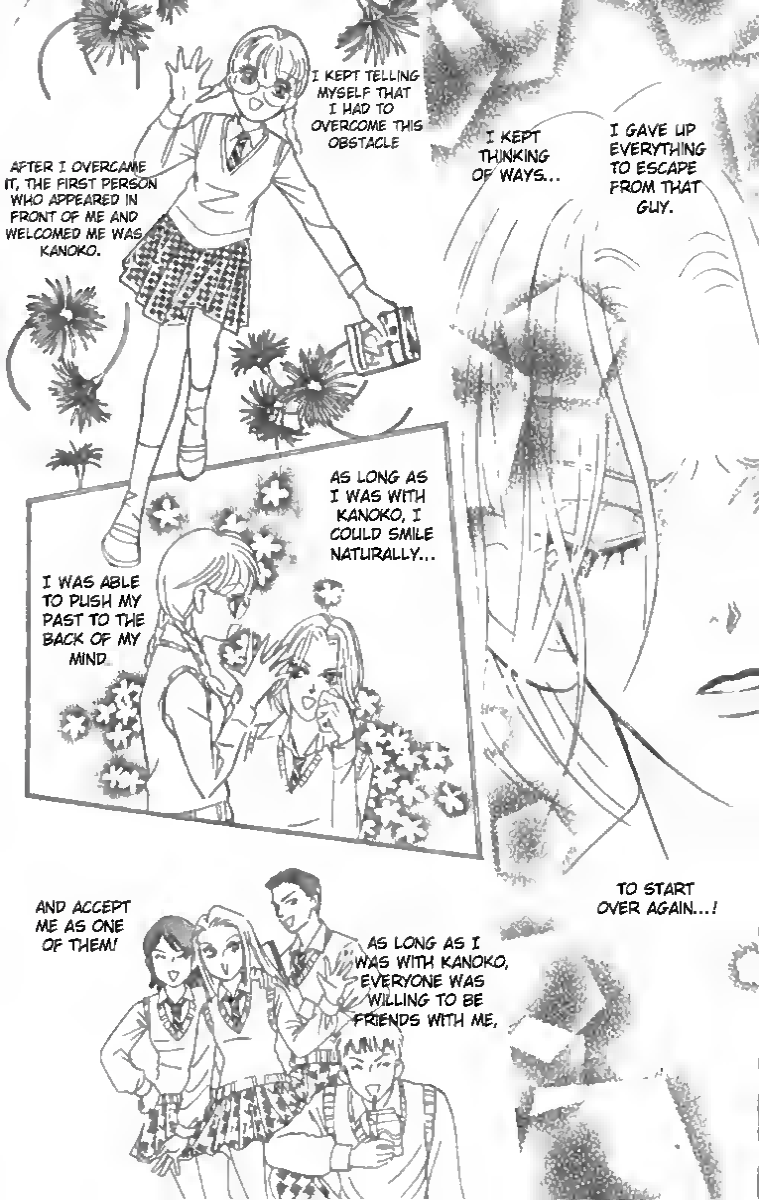
AND YOUR WIFE IS HERE WITH YOU...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE OK.
THANKS TO YOU, WE HAD A TOUCHING REUNION!
BYE BYE--
YASUHITO WAS HERE TOO?
YEAH... HE WAS HERE JUST NOW...
EH?
SO WE'LL BE GOING NOW!
HUH? YASUHITO...

YASUHITO!
IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME. WHAT KIND OF AN ATTITUDE IS THAT?


HM--
A TOUCHING REUNION?
WELL, IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE IT...

I'M NO LONGER THE PERSON I WAS BEFORE!
WELL, EXCUSE ME! I DON'T WANT TO BE RELATED TO YOU IN ANY WAY!
JUST PRETEND THAT I DIED ALREADY!
YASUHITO--
AH,
I'VE BEEN DITCHED BY HIM AGAIN!

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET HIM GET AWAY THIS TIME...
I ALREADY LET GO OF THAT PART OF MY PAST...
BUT ALL THIS IS MAKING ME REMEMBER IT AGAIN!


I KEPT TELLING MYSELF THAT I HAD TO OVERCOME THIS OBSTACLE
AFTER I OVERCAME IT, THE FIRST PERSON WHO APPEARED IN FRONT OF ME AND WELCOMED ME WAS KANOKO.
I KEPT THINKING OF WAYS...
I GAVE UP EVERYTHING TO ESCAPE FROM THAT GUY.
AS LONG AS I WAS WITH KANOKO, I COULD SMILE NATURALLY...
I WAS ABLE TO PUSH MY PAST TO THE BACK OF MY MIND
TO START OVER AGAIN...!
AND ACCEPT ME AS ONE OF THEM!
AS LONG AS I WAS WITH KANOKO, EVERYONE WAS WILLING TO BE FRIENDS WITH ME,

WILL I BE BROUGHT BACK TO THAT DEEP POOL?
I HAVE TO FACE THE PAST THAT I'VE BEEN TRYING SO HARD TO FORGET!
BUT NOW, BECAUSE OF KANOKO

TO ME...DOES KANOKO'S EXISTENCE PROVIDE
FORTUNE...OR MISFORTUNE?

HEY, GIVE ME A GLASS.
BUT IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO DRINK WHILE ON THE JOB?
THIS WINE IS FOR COOKING.
あっ
AH...
COME ON, YOU SHOULD HAVE A GLASS TOO!
OH, WHO CARES. THIS IS A GOOD TIME FOR A DRINK.

CHEERS!
FOR THE SAD REUNION OF LOVERS,
MR. HOUJOU, IS YOUR HEAD STILL HURTING?
MM... I'M A LOT BETTER NOW.
UM... MR HOUJOU...

HUH?
JUST NOW WHEN YOU WERE REGAINING CONCIOUSNESS, YOU CALLED ME 'TOKIKO'.
I THINK MR. IJUUIN'S MOTHER ALSO THOUGHT THAT I WAS HER
NO... THAT'S NOT IT.
IS IT BECAUSE I HAVE A BABY FACE?
YOU BOTH THINK THAT I LOOK LIKE A TWO YEAR-OLD CHILD...
IF SHE WERE ALIVE, SHE WOULD BE AROUND YOUR AGE...
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU TWO LEAVE A SIMILAR IMPRESSION?
WAS IT BECAUSE OF AN ILLNESS?
HOW DID TOKIKO DIE?

NO... IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
SHE DROWNED IN THE POND OF THAT BIG HOUSE...
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
YOU KILLED TOKIKO!

EVEN THOUGH TOKIKO WAS SO YOUNG
SHE ALWAYS TRIED HER BEST TO COMFORT ME...
HMM...
...TOKIKO...
WAS SHE HAPPY?
I'M SORRY, MR. HOUJOU!
BUT--
I MADE YOU THINK ABOUT SUCH SAD MEMORIES...

BECAUSE THERE'S SOMEONE WHO IS FEELING SO SAD FOR HER...
MR. HOUJOU...
EVERYONE IS BORN FOR A REASON!
TOKIKO...
SHE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO KNOW THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
BORN IN THAT BIG MANSION.
MAYBE TOKIKO WAS UNHAPPY,
BUT AT LEAST SHE WASN'T LONELY, RIGHT?
TOKIKO...
WHY WAS SHE BORN?
AND JUST LIKE THAT, HER SHORT LIFE ENDED.

TAI...
PLEASE...
DON'T CRY--
PLEASE DON'T BE IN SO MUCH PAIN ANYMORE.

DON'T BE SAD ANYMORE--
PLEASE...

HMM?
KANOKO...

...KANOKO...
I REALLY NEED YOU...
EVER SINCE I LET YOU GO BACK HOME, I'VE BEEN REGRETTING IT.
MR. HOUJOU...
ME SAYING THAT I WANTED TO GET A DIVORCE... THAT I WANTED TO LEAVE YOU...
THAT WAS ALL A BIG MISTAKE!
YOU'RE IS STILL MY WIFE, ACCORDING TO THE PAPERS.

I'VE BEEN DEEPLY HURT IN THE PAST,
SO MY BODY CANNOT BE CONNECTED WITH A WOMAN'S BODY.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I HAVE TO BE HONEST WITH YOU ABOUT.
I ONLY FEEL FEAR AND HATE.
WHEN I EMBRACE A WOMAN,
I'VE TRIED BEING WITH MANY DIFFERENT WOMEN BEFORE, BUT I JUST COULDN'T...

WHY ARE YOU SAYING THESE THINGS?
KANOKO, TO BE HONEST... I'M NOT FIT TO BE YOUR HUSBAND.
AND I ENDED UP BEING CALLED A PLAYER...
ARE PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIPS REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?
BUT THE TRUTH IS I COULDN'T STAND IT.
MR. HOUJOU..

KANOKO.
OUR SOULS BEING CONNECTED IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING!

KANOKO--
SAYING THIS NOW MIGHT BE A BIT SHAMELESS BUT...
ARE YOU WILLING TO COME BACK TO BE WITH A PERSON LIKE ME?
TO BE ALWAYS BESIDE ME--

I'LL COME BACK RIGHT AWAY, BUT... WILL YOU LET ME JUST GO HOME FOR A BIT?
HUH?
MR. HOUJOU...
WAIT!
I WANT TO SAY A PROPER GOODBYE TO MY FAMILY.
LAST TIME I DIDN'T GET TO SAY THINGS CLEARLY BEFORE COMING HERE, SO THIS TIME...
REO TOOK YOU AWAY BEFORE!
NO! YOU CAN'T GO OUT NOW!
YEAH... JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
GO HOME? RIGHT NOW?

IT SHOULD BE OK.
YOU SHOULD REST.
HMM...
I'LL BE BACK SOON! WAIT FOR ME--
KANOKO--
DON'T GO!
THAT GUY...
MUST STILL BE PLANNING SOMETHING!

KANOKO--!

A Willful Muse, celebrating its Six Month Anniversary this November! We'd like to help us make our celebration even better? Come join us! We're currently recruiting additional Chinese to English and Japanese to English translators for several of our projects. We're also looking for a few more cleaners to help with our longer projects.
Our group was created with the goal of bringing to English readers' hands high quality yaoi and shounen ai series. We'd finally like to complete several of our current projects quickly so that we can free up more slots in our scheduling for new series.
We are more than willing to work with either new or experienced translators and cleaners. Any interested parties can contact us at our email (awillfulmuse@gmail.com), our site (community.livejournal.com/awillfulmuse), or our forum (awillfulmuse.myfastforum.org).
Our projects consist of mainly shoujo (ranging from sweet and fluffy to hard smut) and some shounen (from all ages through mature readers only). We're also interested in broadening our horizons with seinen and josei for our future readers only in the future.
ラブ♥モンスター
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A Willful Muse

Thank you for reading our release!

TRANSLATOR: GOKURI
PROOFREADER: LYNZ
CLEANER: MOLENIR
TYPSETTER: PERCH
RAWS: ADAD

AS ALWAYS PLEASE SUPPORT THE MANGAKA BY PURCHASING HER WORKS WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA!

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SITE: HTTP://COMMUNITY.LIVEJOURNAL.COM/AWILLFULMUSE/

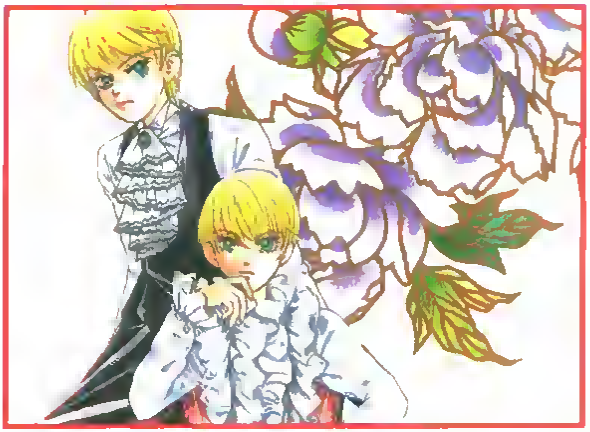
少女系列
TONG LI

億少女

billion girl

5

酒井美羽
(Miwa Sakai)



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Girl COMICS
少女系列
TONG LI

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THIS IS A SHOPPING STREET IN UENO, TOKYO.
IT'S A VERY WARM AND TRADITIONAL AREA.
'OOBA' IS SITUATED ON A CORNER OF THIS STREET.

GOING BACK HOME DRESSED LIKE THIS IS A BIT EMBARRASSING...
HM...
LUCKILY THERE WAS STILL SOME SHIODAIFUKU# LEFT.
THE FOOD HERE IS VERY GOOD, SO THEY SELL OUT REALLY QUICKLY.
LOOK OVER THERE...
#SHIODAIFUKU IS A TYPE OF JAPANESE CONFECTIONARY

I'M BACK--
JUST AS I THOUGHT, PEOPLE THINK I'M WEIRD..
HAHA
I THOUGHT SHE WAS HERE FOR A SHOW OR SOMETHING..
THAT GIRL IS DRESSED SO STRANGELY!
KANOKO!
?
WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN THESE PAST FEW DAYS?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE FINALLY BACK FOR GOOD.. BUT THEN YOU WENT MISSING!
UM.. SOMEONE GAVE IT TO ME..

KANOKO!
SORRY, I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU LATER.
ガラ
ドダダ
THIS TIME, AFTER TAKING MY BELONGINGS AND LEAVING THIS HOUSE.
CLOTHES, WINTER CLOTHES, UNIFORM... I THINK I SHOULD BE FINE
十年日記
I CAN'T FORGET MY TEXTBOOKS AND MY TEN YEAR DIARY...
I MIGHT REALLY NEVER COME BACK AGAIN

I WAS SUDDENLY TAKEN AWAY FROM MR. HOUJOU.
THE FIRST TIME, IN A SITUATION THAT I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND..
I'VE DECIDED ON IT BY MYSELF..
BUT THIS TIME...
PLEASE COME BACK TO MY SIDE...
ROKO...I REALLY NEED YOU.

DECIDING BY MYSELF AT 16..
I MIGHT STILL BE TOO YOUNG..
BUT A VOICE IN MY HEART IS TELLING ME THAT THIS IS MY DESTINY..
KANOKO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT'S ALL THIS LUGGAGE? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
UM. . ABOUT THIS .
MOM, I'M SORRY, I.
I'VE DECIDED TO GO BACK TO MR. HOUJOU'S HOUSE.
GO BACK? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THIS IS YOUR HOME!
WHY ARE YOU SO NOISY? EVERYONE CAN HEAR YOU DOWNSTAIRS.
AH! I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE. ROKO, SHE...

WHEN HAVE YOU EVER BEEN WORRIED ABOUT ME?
WHEN I DIDN'T COME BACK HOME BEFORE, YOU DIDN'T REALLY CARE!
DON'T MAKE YOUR MOTHER WORRY!
?
?
?
?
?
?
?
すっ
とぼとぼ

ON SUCH A BAD CHILD LIKE YOU..
HUH--?
I'LL HAVE TO USE THIS!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR..

MOM--
JUST BE GOOD AND STAY HERE UNTIL YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES
WHEN YOU WERE TAKEN TO THAT GUY'S HOUSE SHE WAS ALSO REALLY WORRIED...
DON'T THINK THAT YOUR MOM DOESN'T CARE ABOUT YOU. SHE WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
DON'T...
KANOKO.
DON'T YOU DARE HELP HER, UNDERSTOOD?

DAD--
SO BE MORE MATURE AND DON'T MAKE HER WORRY
SHE PRAYED TO OUR ANCESTORS EVERY MORNING AND NIGHT,
PRAYING THAT YOU WERE SAFE.
KANOKO...

KANOKO HASN'T COME BACK YET?
YOUNG MASTER, YOU SHOULDN'T GET UP
KANOKO...
WHY AREN'T YOU BACK YET?
OBINATA, YOU'RE REALLY NOISY..
YOUNG MASTER, YOU'RE REALLY HOT! LET ME TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE!

TATSUYA--
IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS HAVE BECOME REALLY SERIOUS...
WHOA! YOU REALLY GOT TIED UP!
PLEASE UNTIE ME
WHEN DID YOU COME BACK? WHERE'S AMAMIYA?
WEREN'T YOU WITH HIM?
EH?
NO!

YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT LONG HAIRED EX-HUSBAND OF YOURS, DON'T YOU?
YOU CAN'T! MEN LIKE HIM WILL ONLY BRING MISFORTUNE TO WOMEN
BUT...
I PROMISED HIM THAT I'D GO BACK...

NO! YOU CAN'T! CRYING WON'T WORK ON ME!
MR. HOUJOU... HE MUST BE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT ME RIGHT NOW...
WHY DO I, YOUR BACKUP HUSBAND, HAVE TO HELP YOU ESCAPE TO GO BACK TO THAT MAN'S EMBRACE?
TATSUYA!

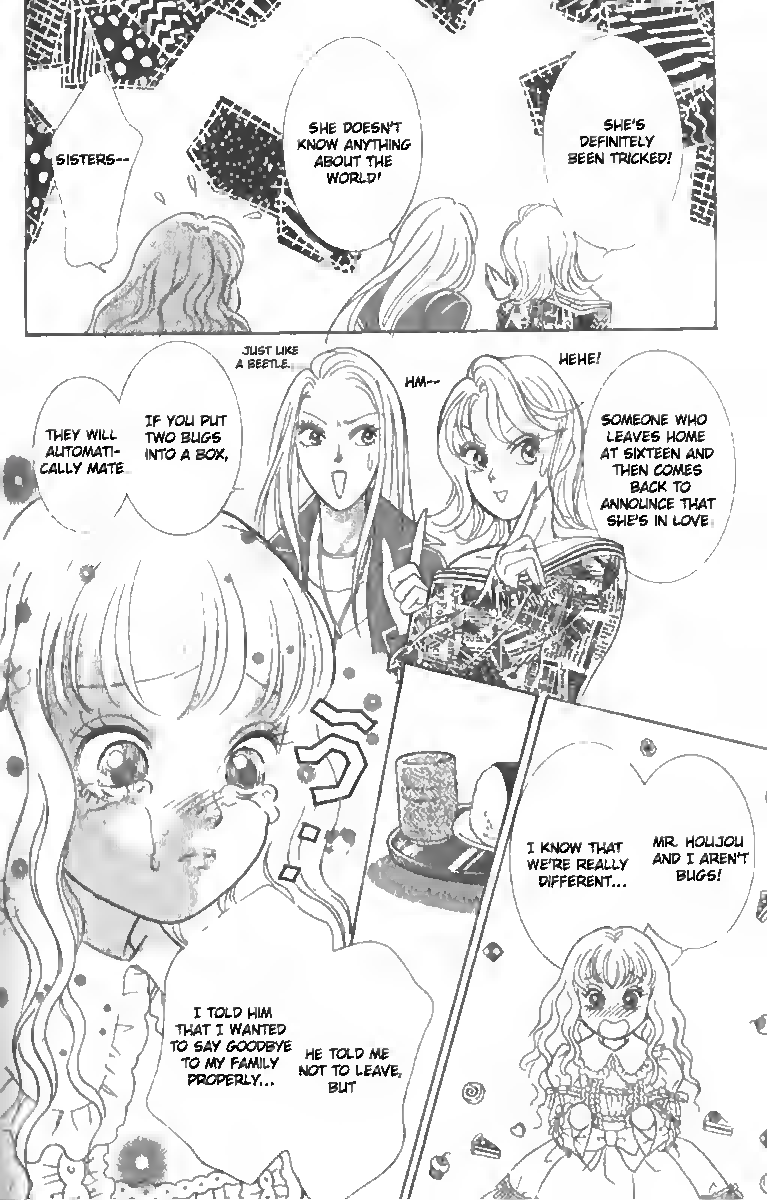
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO GO BACK TO THAT GUY'S SIDE?
IT WASN'T EASY FOR YOU TO COME BACK HOME
I REALLY WANT TO GO BACK HOME!
I DEFINITELY WON'T LET YOU GO TO HIM!
BUT I CAN'T...

TATSUYA, WHAT WERE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
SORRY. .
YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO HELP KANOKO ESCAPE, ARE YOU?
HOW COULD I...
I WAS JUST A BIT SHOCKED THAT SHE WAS ALL TIED UP.
TATSUYA--
YES!
GET BACK TO WORK!

YES, IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S ALREADY BACK AT HOME.
SHOULD WE BEGIN?
NO... WAIT FOR MY ORDERS.
DON'T BE SO OBVIOUS!

WHAT TIME IS IT? HOW MUCH TIME AS PASSED?
IT'S DARK ALREADY...
SHIGURE... HAG!
I CAN'T BELIEVE OUR MOTHER HAS SSM TENDENCIES!
WOW! YOU'RE REALLY TIED UP!
ガーン
カラ...

HEY!
CAN YOU EAT WHILE YOU'RE TIED UP?
THIS IS FOR YOU.
I...LIKE HIM...
YEAH, KANOKO.
WHO USED ONE BILLION DOLLARS TO GET YOU TO MARRY HIM?
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO SOME WEIRD GUY
BECAUSE...


SISTERS--
SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE WORLD!
SHE'S DEFINITELY BEEN TRICKED!
JUST LIKE A BEETLE.
HM--
HEHE!
THEY WILL AUTOMATI-CALLY MATE.
IF YOU PUT TWO BUGS INTO A BOX,
SOMEONE WHO LEAVES HOME AT SIXTEEN AND THEN COMES BACK TO ANNOUNCE THAT SHE'S IN LOVE.
I KNOW THAT WE'RE REALLY DIFFERENT...
MR. HOUJOU AND I AREN'T BUGS!
I TOLD HIM THAT I WANTED TO SAY GOODBYE TO MY FAMILY PROPERLY...
HE TOLD ME NOT TO LEAVE, BUT

IF I KNEW THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE LIKE THIS,
I WOULDN'T HAVE COME BACK!
I'M LENDING YOU THIS! USE IT TO CONTACT MR. HOUJOU.
SHIGURE...
I WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT MR. HOUJOU'S SIDE
HU
REMEMBER THIS PHRASE, "IF YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE, THEN DON'T REGRET IT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO THANK ME
SISTER..
I'VE DECIDED..

HELLO? YOUNG MISTRESS?
UNCLE OBINATA--
I'M SORRY, WHEN I WASN'T WATCHING, YOUNG MASTER...
HUH?
EVEN THOUGH HE HAS A HIGH FEVER...
I THINK HE WENT TO GET YOU.
WHAT? MR HOUJOU HAS A FEVER?
CAN YOU TEACH ME HOW TO USE THIS?
HM...
...039...

MR. HOUJOU!
EH?
AH--
IF I HAVE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE...

EH?
?
OSHINARI--
TATSUYA--
QUICK, JUMP DOWN!
WE'LL CATCH YOU!

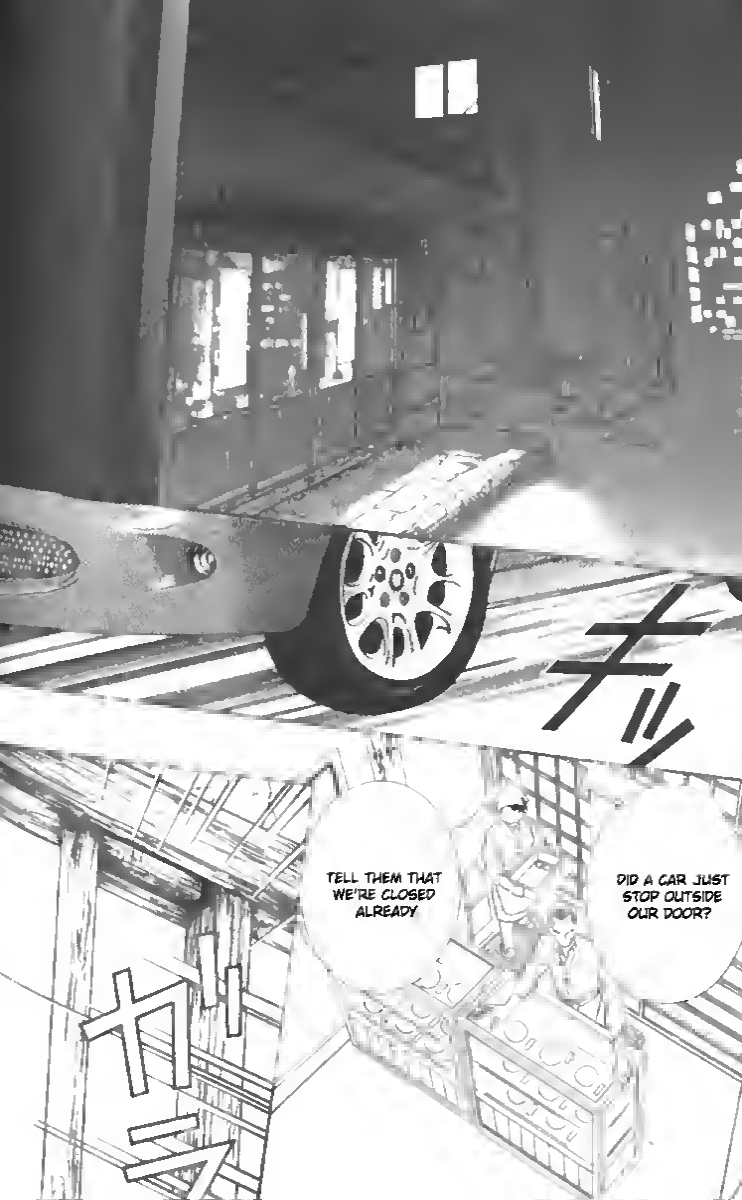
JUMP DOWN? FROM HERE?
AH...
WHAA...
SORRY, ARE YOU OK?
I'M FINE... I'M FINE...
.....
UM... THIS MIDGET TOLD ME TO COME...
OSHINARI WHY ARE YOU HERE?

I'M REALLY WEAK AGAINST A WOMAN'S TEARS
ACTUALLY, I'M. .
I. .STILL DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!
WHO CARES! LET'S GO FIRST
IT HURTS!
WHAT IS IT?
MY FOOT...
OH YEAH... YOU'RE NOT WEARING SHOES
I'LL CARRY YOU.
HUH?

WHOO
OOOA!

HMM.. THESE GUYS...
GET IN THE CAR!
TAKE THEM ALL WITH US!
HMM...
OSHINARI!
WAIT--
AH..

I'VE BEEN LEFT BEHIND AGAIN!
WHAT THE HECK?!


キィ
TELL THEM THAT WE'RE CLOSED ALREADY
DID A CAR JUST STOP OUTSIDE OUR DOOR?
カラ

HUH?
DID KANOKO COME BACK...?

WHERE ARE YOU, KANOKO?
ヤバイ
KANOKO--
THAT MAN'S HERE TO TAKE HER AWAY!
SHE'S GONE!
WHEN DID SHE RUN AWAY?
HUH? SHE'S GONE?

AM I ONE STEP TOO LATE...?
AH!
YOU....!

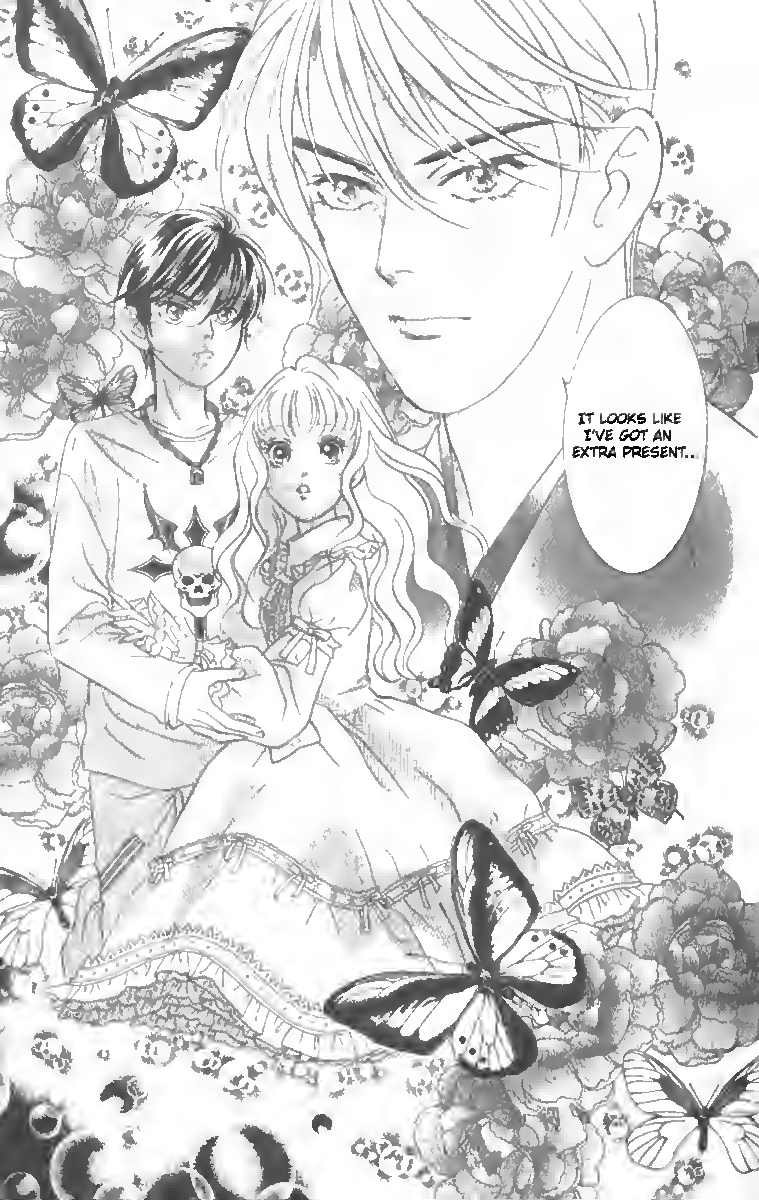
はっ

IT'S REALLY DARK...
OSHINARI...
HMM...
OOBA, WHERE ARE WE?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WAKE UP

AH... AREN'T THOSE SQUARES?
HM?
IT'S PITCH BLACK. I DON'T KNOW EITHER.
WE'VE BEEN LOCKED UP!

MY SUBORDINATES MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOO ROUGH...

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
REO IJUUIN!


IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT AN EXTRA PRESENT..

SORRY, MASTER IJUUIN.
YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME!
IT WAS CHAOTIC BACK THERE, SO...
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO JUST BRING KANOKO BACK?
FORGET IT. LET THEM OUT
YES

ギギィ…
KANOKO.
OOBA!
AH--

YOU'RE QUITE BRAVE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? CAN'T YOU TELL THAT SHE'S NOT WILLING? STOP IT!
BUT... NOTHING GOOD WILL COME OF THOSE WHO GO AGAINST ME!

AH!
OSHINARI! YOU'RE BLEEDING...
KANOKO, COME HERE!
NO--
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO WORRIED. I ONLY SCRATCHED HIM LIGHTLY.
IF I HAD USED THE POINT OF MY SWORD HIS ARM WOULD BE BROKEN!

OOBA!
SOMETHING WRONG... WITH ME?
MR. IJUUIN, YOU'RE TERRIBLE! HOW COULD YOU HURT SOMEONE WITH A SWORD?
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU!
KANOKO, COME OVER HERE

HMM.. MAYBE.
SO IF YOU DARE RUN AWAY AGAIN WITHOUT A WORD,
THAT YOUNG MAN WILL BE IN DANGER! UNDERSTAND?
COME! THERE'S AN IMPORTANT MISSION FOR YOU TO DO

MASTER REO.
HOW IS MOTHER?
PLEASE GET UP, MOTHER.
SHE...IS RESTING IN HER ROOM.

REO
CHEER UP, TOKIKO'S BACK.
YOU DISAPPEARED SO SUDDENLY.
YOU MADE MOTHER REALLY SAD, SO SHE CONFINED HERSELF TO HER BED.
TOKIKO!
I'M SO GLAD! MOMMY WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

MR. HOUJOU, SAVE ME...
YOU CAN'T LEAVE YOUR MOTHER'S SIDE EVER AGAIN...

MR. HOUJOU!

HE'S QUITE HANDSOME! AND HE'S A BILLIONAIRE TOO.
IF I HAD KNOWN THAT EARLIER, I WOULD HAVE MARRIED HIM!
HE'S THAT STRANGE MAN FROM BEFORE?
HUH? THAT'S KANOKO'S HUSBAND?
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU TIED HER UP! SO SHE HAD TO ESCAPE!
THAT'S BECAUSE THAT CHILD WOULDN'T LISTEN!
DON'T PEEK AT HIM! IT'S IMPOLITE!
SHIGURE, HIGA!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THIS MAN IS HERE TO TAKE KANOKO BACK?
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, KANOKO IS MISSING?
HMM. .

?
WHERE IS THIS PLACE?
YOUR VOICE IS TOO LOUD!
AH--- WE WOKE HIM UP!
AH... I SORT OF REMEMBER NOW...
YOU STEPPED INTO OUR STORE AND THEN FAINTED
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
THAT'S RIGHT! WHERE'S KANOKO?

I'VE LET YOU GUYS SEE ME LIKE THIS...
HMM...
YOU MUST HAVE JUST MISSED EACH OTHER?
SHE SAID THAT SHE WANTED TO GO BACK TO YOUR HOUSE.
ドン
I'M A DESPICABLE GUY WHO USED MONEY TO BUY YOUR DAUGHTER.
DAD, MOM, I...

PLEASE, LET ME MARRY YOUR DAUGHTER!
BUT RIGHT NOW, KANOKO'S EXISTENCE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME!
I, TAIGA HOUJOU, AM ASKING YOU PROPERLY THIS TIME.

HUH?
9
YASUHITO!

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU FOR SO LONG!
I HAVE THE RIGHT TO GO WHERE I WANT TO GO!
WHY WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?
SO PAINFUL!
YOU. . YOU'RE TOO MUCH..
SOMETHING BAD'S HAPPENED! KANOKO AND OSHINARI HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED!
WHAT?!
AND THEN I WAS LEFT BEHIND AGAIN...
WASN'T KANOKO AT TAIGA'S HOUSE?
WAAAH--

SHE WAS EVEN TIED UP IN HER HOUSE OSHINARI AND I HELPED HER ESCAPE.
WHEN KANOKO WENT HOME TO GET HER STUFF, SHE HAD A BIG FIGHT WITH HER MOM.
HAVE YOU TOLD KANOKO'S FAMILY YET?
KANOKO AND OSHINARI WERE KIDNAPPED LIKE THAT..
BUT THEN, THOSE GUYS WEARING BLACK WERE HIDING THERE!
WHAT'S OSHINARI DOING?
SORRY--
WHY WOULD YOU FIND ME FIRST? YOU'VE GOT THE ORDER ALL WRONG! LET'S GO!
HOW COULD YOU?
I WAS SO SCARED I FORGOT TO..

IF HE'S WITH KANOKO THEN HE SHOULD BE PROTECTING HER!

OSHIN-ARI--
OOBA!
ARE YOU OK? IS YOUR WOUND STILL HURTING?
I'M OK... IT'S STOPPED BLEEDING.
--
HOW ABOUT YOU, OOBA? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES.
MR. IJUUIN'S MOTHER TREATS ME LIKE I'M HER DECEASED DAUGHTER.
SO SHE'S VERY NICE TO ME THIS KIMONO WAS HER DAUGHTER'S ..

MM... IT SUITS YOU WELL...YOU LOOK VERY CUTE WEARING IT.
EH?
OSHINARI, I'M SORRY.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF ME THAT YOU'VE BECOME LIKE THIS.
NO--
AS LONG AS YOU'RE SAFE, I DON'T REALLY CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME.
OSHINARI..
I'M REALLY SORRY.
DON'T BE LIKE THIS!

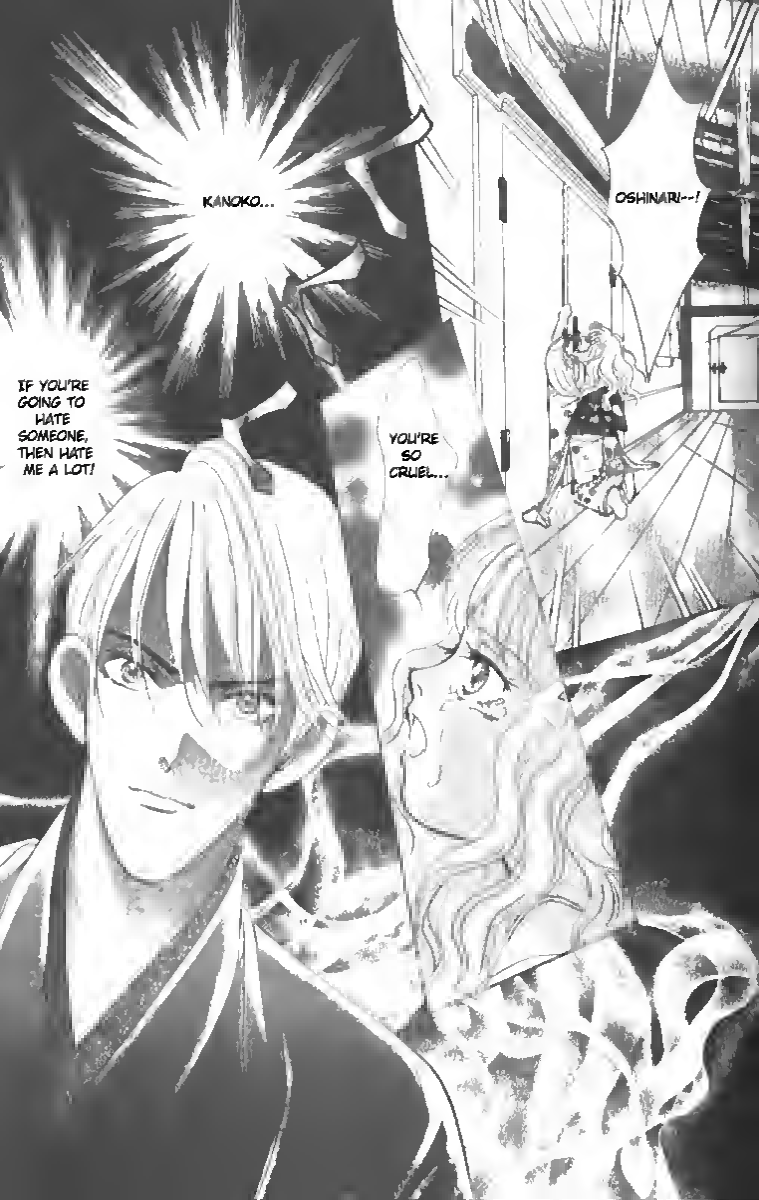
SORRY...
ガタン

KANOKO,
DIDN'T I SAY THAT YOU COULDN'T JUST GO ANYWHERE YOU WANT?
STOP IT! DON'T TOUCH OOBA!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, 'SO I'?
AH...
WHEN I'M NOT WATCHING YOU,
YOU PLAY THESE TYPES OF GAMES! WHERE'S MOTHER?
MM...SHE WAS SLEEPING JUST NOW, SO I...

I FORGOT... YOU SEEM TO REALLY LIKE KANOKO DON'T YOU?
POOR YOU! LOCKED IN THERE, YOU CAN'T REACH OUT!

LET GO OF HER!
AH--

BASTARD!
OSHINARI--
LET'S GO, KANOKO
YOU!
LET ME OUT--
I DON'T WANT TO!


KANOKO...
OSHINARI--!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO HATE SOMEONE, THEN HATE ME A LOT!
YOU'RE SO CRUEL...

NO!
YOU FORCED HER TO LEAVE YOU LAST TIME... AND NOW YOU WANT TO TAKE HER AWAY!

MOM, JUST LET HIM!
KANOKO SAID THAT SHE LIKES HIM
AND SHE'S REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT IT.
HOW CAN YOU SAY NO WHEN THEY'RE IN LOVE?
I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED THAT SHE'S TOO YOUNG..
BUT...THAT CHILD IS JUST SIXTEEN!
AH...
BUT LOOK, GRANNY MARRIED GRANDPA WHEN SHE WAS JUST FIFTEEN!
AND SHE WAS WITH HIM UNTIL SHE DIED!

MOM--!
PROMISE TO MAKE KANOKO HAPPY?
CAN YOU REALLY...
I WILL MAKE HER HAPPY!
I WILL!
TATSUYA!
IT'S ALREADY SO LATE. WHO IS IT...
ドン
ドン

YASUHITO!
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU WHEN IT'S SO LATE.
SOMETHING BIG HAS HAPPENED!
I WANTED TO ASK WHY YOU WERE HERE!
?
TAIGA! WHY ARE YOU HERE?
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER ALREADY?

IT SEEMS LIKE KANOKO AND OSHINARI HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS YOUR BROTHER'S DOING!
TAIGA!
NO . HE'S ONE STEP AHEAD!

TAIGA, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
KANOKO!
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO...
I'LL GO WITH YOU!
OF COURSE I HAVE TO BRING KANOKO BACK!
ME TOO!

TAIGA!
NO!
THIS IS A PROBLEM BETWEEN ME AND REO
I DON'T WANT SOMETHING BAD TO HAPPEN TO YOU GUYS...
IT DOESN'T MATTER!
I DON'T WANT TO DRAG YOU GUYS INTO THIS..
DON'T TRY TO ACT COOL! YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, RIGHT?

TAIGA!

A Willful Muse

Thank you for reading our release!

TRANSLATOR: GOKURI
PROOFREADER: LYNZ
CLEANER: MOLENIR
TYPSETTER: PERCH
RAWS: ADAD

AS ALWAYS PLEASE SUPPORT THE MANGAKA BY PURCHASING HER WORKS WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA!

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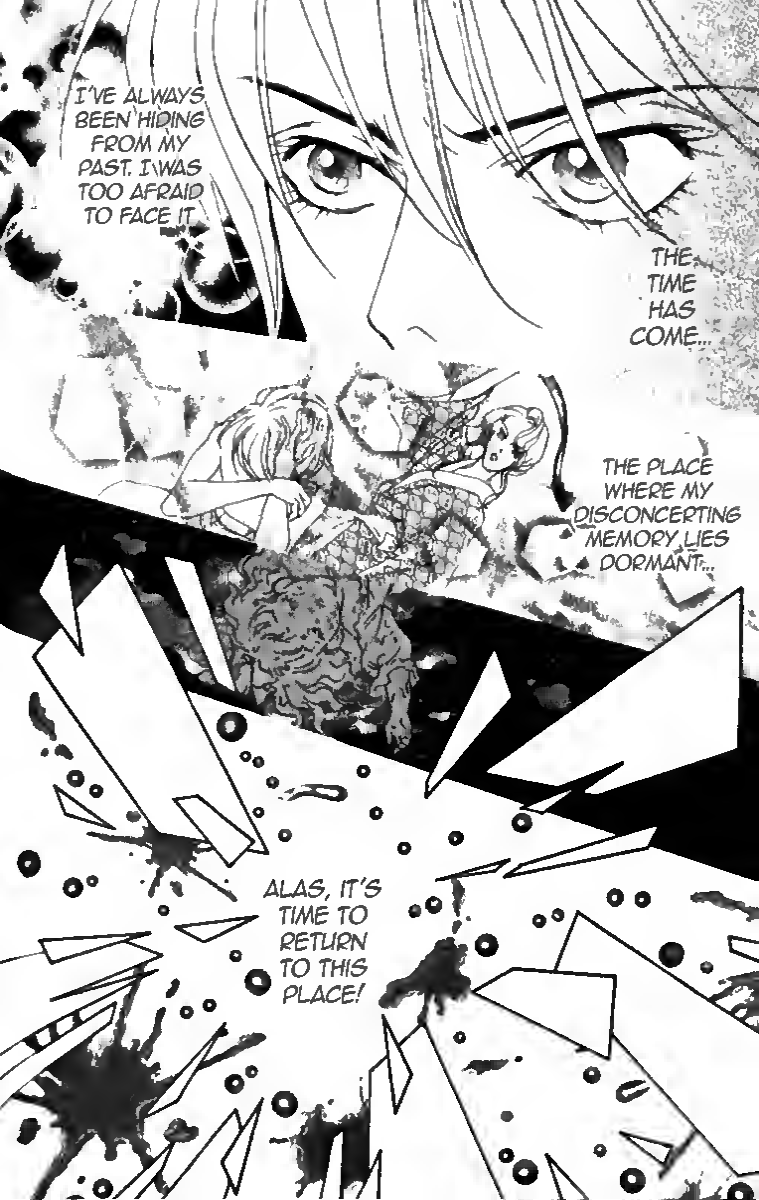

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN HIDING FROM MY PAST. I WAS TOO AFRAID TO FACE IT.
THE TIME HAS COME...
THE PLACE WHERE MY DISCONCERTING MEMORY LIES DORMANT...
ALAS, IT'S TIME TO RETURN TO THIS PLACE!

I CANNOT TURN BACK ANYMORE!
THE ONLY OPTION I HAVE IS EITHER LIFE OR DEATH...

STEP

CLENCH!

REO IJUUIN!
I'M YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER, TAIGA HOUJOU! COME OUT AND SHOW YOUR-SELF!

REO-SAMA
IS HE HERE?
HE CAME EARLIER THAN I EXPECTED.

OPEN THE DOOR!
REO!

"OPENS"
ギギィ…
"RUNNING"
ダダッ
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
WHERE'S REO?

TAIGA, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE LAST MET

RETURN KANOKO TO ME!
I WON'T HAND HER OVER TO YOU SO EASILY.
YOU...
RETURN HER TO YOU?
ARE YOU HAVING REGRETS AFTER YOU'VE ABANDONED HER?

MOTHER THINKS SHE'S TOKIKO,
THUS SHE REFUSES TO LET HER OUT OF HER SIGHT.
TOKIKO
HOW COULD YOU DO THIS_?
KANOKO AND TOKIKO ARE TWO DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS AND YET, YOU SCHEMED TO MAKE HER BECOME TOKIKO'S REPLACEMENT THIS IS_

IF TOKIKO IS STILL ALIVE, SHE WOULD HAVE TURNED SIXTEEN!
EXACTLY THE SAME AGE AS THAT GIRL!
THIRTEEN YEARS AGO, IF YOU DIDN'T ENTER OUR HOUSE,
TOKIKO WILL STILL BE ALIVE...
OH...
ドカッ
"PUNCH"
KANOKO IS NOT TOKIKO!

IT'S JUST A BUNCH OF USELESS CRAP TO TALK TO YOU!
YOU CAUSED TOKIKO'S DEATH!
NOT ME!

STAB
!!
FLINCH
WHAT'S WRONG, TOKIKO?
I THOUGHT I HEARD AN AGONIZING YELL SOMEWHERE IN THE HOUSE...

HUG
AH
MOTHER IS RIGHT BESIDE YOU
TOKIKO IS SO TIMID! DON'T WORRY...
PROBABLY YOU'VE HEARD WRONG?
AT THAT TIME, IF I'VE LISTENED TO HOUJOU-SAN, THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED
KANOKO, DON'T LEAVE!
I'M SORRY, HOUJOU-SAN!

"FLICKERING LIGHT"
SLITHERED
"THUD"
...WHO'S THIS?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

I THINK HE'S CALLED HOUJOU...
OH... THIS GUY IS OOBA'S HUSBAND!
WHERE'S KANOKO? IS SHE SAFE?
ARE YOU OKAY? BRACE YOURSELF!
HIS LEG IS BLEEDING PROFUSELY!
YES...
OOBA IS ALRIGHT! SHE'S PROBABLY IN ONE OF THE ROOMS IN THIS BIG MANSION...
THAT'S GREAT...

INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT HER, IT'S BETTER FOR YOU TO FIRST TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
HOW DID YOU GET THE STAB WOUND?
REO DID THIS
YOU'RE BLEEDING NON-STOP...
YOUR LIFE WILL BE IN GRAVE DANGER IF THE STAB SLICED THROUGH THE ARTERY IN YOUR THIGH!
DON'T WORRY! THE BLOOD IS INSIGNIFI-CANT IT'S PROBABLY NOT ANYWHERE NEAR THE ARTERY
BUT WE BETTER STOP THE BLEEDING
JUST HOLD ON.

I'M USED TO SEEING STAB WOUNDS
.....
URGH!
TIGHT!
I'LL TIE THIS AROUND YOUR CALF,
SO IT WOULD PROBABLY GIVE YOU A NUMBING EFFECT.
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF WE COULD DISINFECT THE WOUND,
ELSE IT WILL BE PROBLEM-ATIC IF YOUR WOUND GETS INFLAMED!
YOU SEEM TO BE VERY FAMILIAR IN THIS AREA!

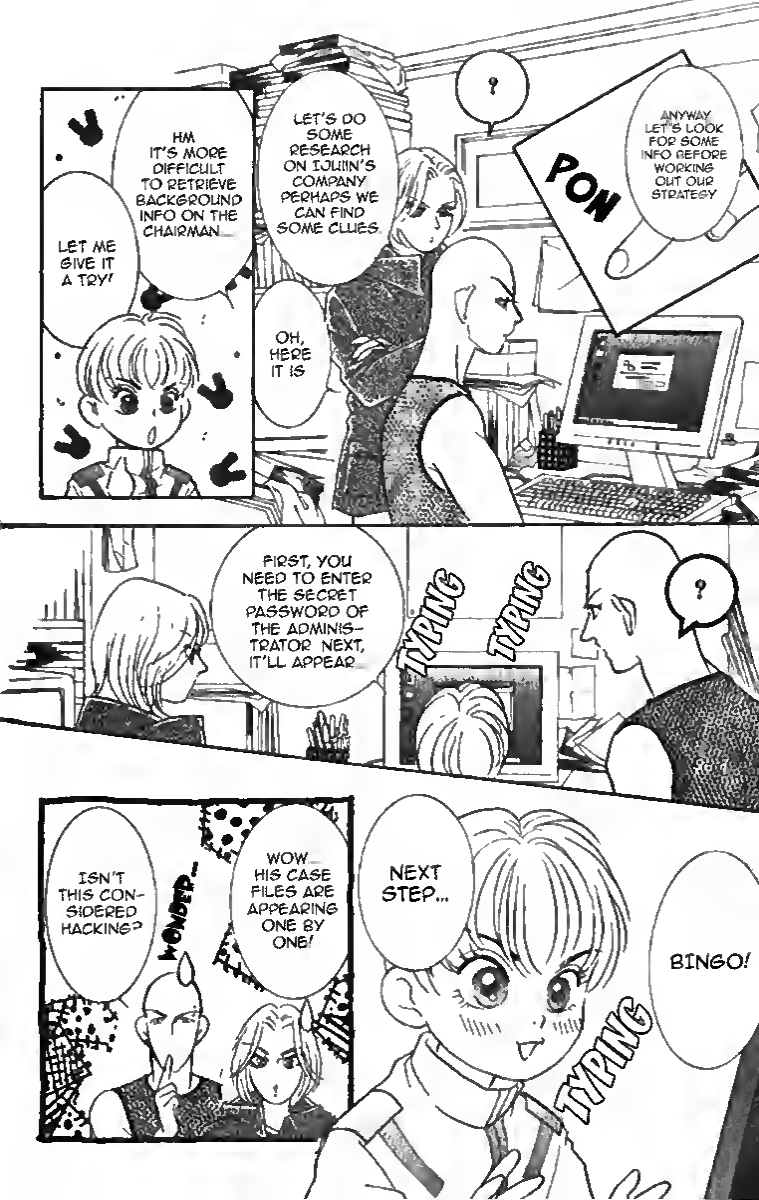
WHO ARE YOU...?
FOOTSTEPS
WAIT FOR ME! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
RUNNING

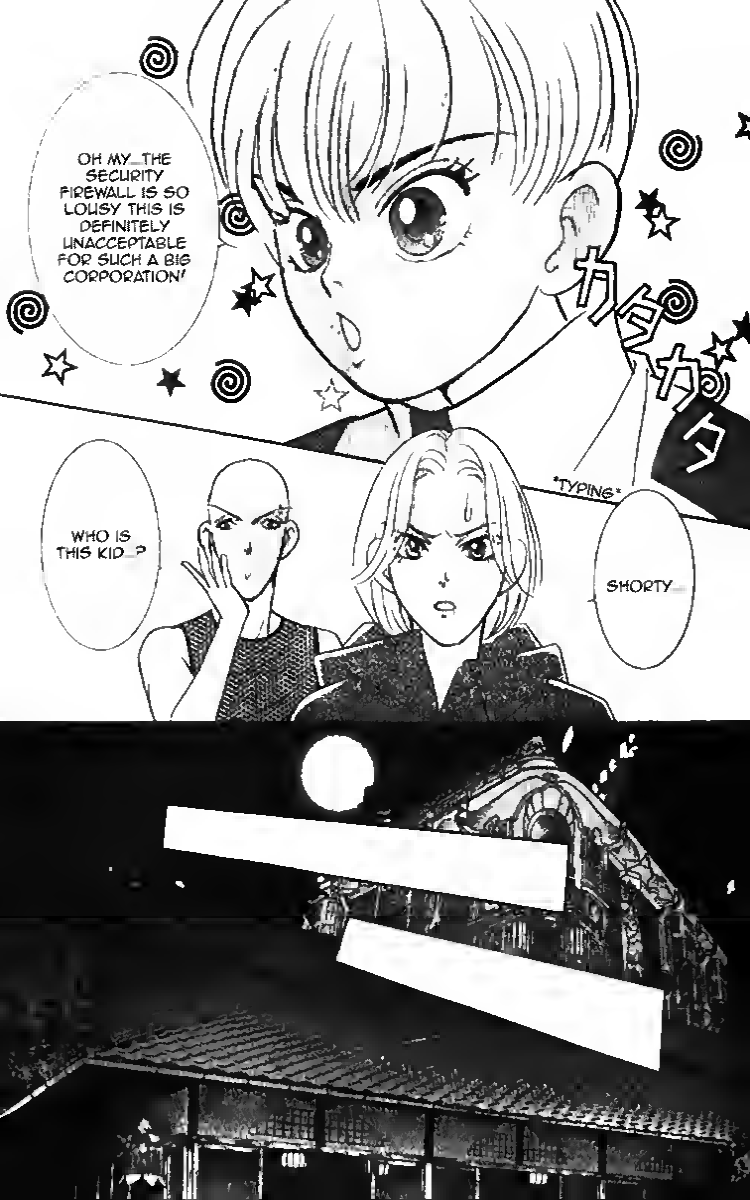
I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO RETURN TO THIS PLACE...

THIS HOME IS A PRISON!
THIS IS JUST AN ORDINARY CONDO!
"OPENS"
"DING DONG"
COMING
SHOCKED
WHO IS THIS SHORT BRAT?
WAIT—
HE'S SO GAY
A bald person wearing ear studs
—WHY DO I FEEL THIS WAY?
TOOKS AROUND

I DIDN'T EXPECT AMAMIYA TO COME AND VISIT ME
YES...I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK OF YOU
FAVOUR?
GO AHEAD! DO YOU WANT TO DO IT FROM THE FRONT OR BEHIND?
SHORTY, LET'S GO!
I WAS JUST JOKING...

I RECALL THAT HE HEADS ONE OF COMPANIES UNDER IJUIIN GROUP.
TAIGA'S ELDER STEP-BROTHER... I THINK HIS NAME IS REO..
THIS INVOLVES A HUGE COR-PORATION...
IF OSHINARI IS ALSO BEING KIDNAPPED, THEN IT CAN BE TREATED AS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE HOWEVER,
INDEED NOBLE FAMILY HAS SUCH EXTRA-ORDINARY STORIES TO TELL...
TAIGA'S MOTHER IS THE MISTRESS, IN OTHER WORDS SHE'S HIS SECOND LOVER
STEP-BROTHER...?
EVEN THOUGH HIS MOTHER IS THE MISTRESS BUT TAIGA'S MOTHER IS THE YOUNGER SISTER OF HIS FIRST WIFE FUR-THERMORE THEY ARE TWIN SISTERS!
PROBABLY THE POLICE WILL NOT INTERFERE?
HEY----


HM... IT'S MORE DIFFICULT TO RETRIEVE BACKGROUND INFO ON THE CHAIRMAN...
LET ME GIVE IT A TRY!
LET'S DO SOME RESEARCH ON IJUIIN'S COMPANY PERHAPS WE CAN FIND SOME CLUES
OH, HERE IT IS
?
PON
ANYWAY LET'S LOOK FOR SOME INFO BEFORE WORKING OUT OUR STRATEGY
FIRST, YOU NEED TO ENTER THE SECRET PASSWORD OF THE ADMINIS-TRATOR NEXT, IT'LL APPEAR...
TYPING
TYPING
?
ISN'T THIS CON-SIDERED HACKING?
WONDER...
WOW... HIS CASE FILES ARE APPEARING ONE BY ONE!
NEXT STEP...
TYPING
BINGO!


OH MY... THE SECURITY FIREWALL IS SO LOUSY THIS IS DEFINITELY UNACCEPTABLE FOR SUCH A BIG CORPORATION!
カタカタ
TYPING
WHO IS THIS KID...?
SHORTY...

CREAKS OPEN
KANOKO
...NO, TOKIKO...
IOUIIN-SAN...
CALL ME ONII-SAN. IS MOTHER ASLEEP?
I HAVE SOMETHING INTERESTING TO SHOW YOU!

KANOKO?
THIS IS GREAT! YOU'RE SAFE AND SOUND
HOUJOU-SAN, BLOOD ...ARE YOU INJURED?
THIS IS CAUSED BY THAT BASTARD!
OSHI-NARI---
HE WAS STABBED BY THE SWORD HE WAS CARRYING...
!

NO...
THIS IS NOT YOUR FAULT
I'M SORRY... IF I LISTENED TO HOUJOU-SAN, THEN THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED...
KANO-KO...
HOU-JOU-SAN...
I'M OKAY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRY.

ARE YOU DONE WITH THIS TOUCHING REUNION?
TAKE HER AWAY!
"CREAKS"
HOUJOU-SAN!

ARE YOU RELIEVED THAT SHE'S SAFE AND SOUND?
KANOKO!
IOULUIN, YOU BETTER NOT GO OVER-BOARD!
'STARE'
I'M SO HAPPY! TAIGA, YOU FINALLY RETURNED MY POS-SESSION BACK
.....
NOT ONLY DID YOU SNATCH AWAY MY SISTER

YOU'VE ALSO SNATCHED AWAY MOTHER!
THIRTEEN YEARS AGO, FROM THE VERY MOMENT YOU STEPPED INTO MY HOUSEHOLD..
THE ELEGANT IMAGE OF MOTHER VANISHED.
INSTEAD, SHE BECAME SOMEONE LIKENED TO A BEAST!
SHE STARTED TO ACT ABNORMALLY..
SHE COMPLETELY IGNORED TOKIKO AND MY EXISTENCE.
MOTHER STARTED TO BEHAVE DIFFERENTLY...

AFTER TOKIKO PASSED AWAY, AND YOU LEFT THE HOUSE-HOLD...
REO...
MY MOTHER LOST HER SANITY...TO FORGET TOKIKO, SHE...
TREATED ME AS YOUR REPLA-CEMENT EVERY SINGLE NIGHT...
EVEN THOUGH MY MOTHER IS ALIVE...
THE IMAGE OF MY MOTHER IS UTTERLY STAINED!
TAIGA.
PERHAPS YOU'VE GRIEVED OVER THE LOSS OF YOUR MOTHER...
HOWEVER, SHE REMAINS ETERNALLY BEAUTIFUL AND PERFECT IN YOUR HEART!

"WIELD"
BROTHER..
ARE YOU FEELING SORRY FOR ME?
...HOW COULD IT
TURN OUT LIKE THIS...?
THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH BETTER IF YOU WERE NOT BORN AT ALL!
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU VANISH FROM THIS WORLD!

THE PERSON YOU SHOULD HATE...
REO.
PERHAPS YOU'VE MISTAKEN ME AS YOUR SOURCE OF HATRED?
SHOULD BE OUR FATHER, HYOUTO IJUUIN!
"RATTLE"
AH...
SHUT UP!

REO!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? ARE YOU OKAY?
I DON'T NEED YOUR CONCERN!
REO!

"THUD"
HOU-JOU-SAN?
HAVE YOU OVERHEARD OUR CONVERSATION?
YES... BUT I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT YOU TWO MEANT
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY
YOU MUSTN'T TELL KANOKO.
YES...

THE PERSON I SHOULD REALLY HATE
IS OUR FATHER, HYOUTO IJUUIN!
JUST SHUT UP!
WIELD
PLEASE PUT YOUR SWORD DOWN!
REO-SAMA..
SHUT UP!
YOU'RE TOO NOISY!
SHOIEKS

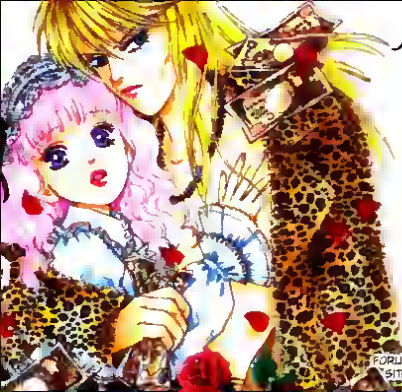
"RUNNING"
"THUD"
WE BETTER STOP HIM!
HE'S HEADING TOWARDS THE COURTYARD!
OH NO! REO-SAMA...
IJUIIN-SAN..
OH...
"RUSTLING"

TOKIKO...
TOKIKO!
"GLANCE"
"RUSTLE"
"RUSTLING"

TOKIKO!!
TO-KIKO...!
IJUUIN-SAN!
TOKIKO!
TOKIKO!
SPLASH X3

"EXHALING"
"GRAB"
IJUIIN-SAN!
TOKIKO, SHE...
NO
WHAT'S WRONG?
IS THERE SOMEONE IN THE POND?

TOKIKO'S DEATH IS NOT TAIGA'S FAULT.
THE ACTUAL FACT IS...
I'M THE ONE...
WHO CAUSED TOKIKO'S DEATH...



A Willful Muse

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